

standards laid down under the prevention of Food Adulteration Act is absolutely safe.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the iodised salt is the most effective, sustainable and cheapest method for prevention and control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the Country.

(d) A budget provision of Rs. 15.00 crores has been made during the current financial year 2006-07. It has been estimated that the cost of iodisation of common salt works out to be 10 paise per kg.

(e) Iodisation of salt is liberalized under the Private Sector. The Salt Commissioner, has permitted 824 Private salt manufacturers for the production of iodised salt. The Government is not providing any financial subsidy to the private salt manufactures.

ASHAs under NRHM

492. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Panchayat level Accredited Social Health (ASHAs) have been enrolled under NRHM, give details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether any minimum and maximum numbers of ASHAs per Panchayat have been prescribed;

(c) what steps are being taken for the skill upgradation for the Panchayat level ASHAs;

(d) how many ASHAs have been trained since inception of NRHM, give details thereof, year-wise and programme-wise; and

(e) which are the agencies involved in skill upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government of India in April 2005 has launched the NRHM to improve access of people in the rural areas especially the poor women and children to quality primary health care services. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is an important

strategic intervention under the Mission. The scheme which was initially introduced in only 10 high focus states under NRHM, has now been extended to NE states and tribal areas of other states. A total of 348920 ASHAs have been selected in these areas so far. In addition to ASHAs, 91013 health link workers have also been selected by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

State-wise and year-wise details of Selection and Training of ASHA is enclosed at Statement-I and II (See Below)

(b) The general norm is one ASHA for 1000 population. In tribal, hilly, desert areas the norms could be relaxed to one ASHA per habitation, depending on her workload.

(c) Capacity building of ASHA is critical in enhancing her performance. The induction training of ASHA would be completed in 23 days spread in five rounds over a period of 12 months to be followed by periodic re-training for about two days once every alternate month. ASHA training is a continuous one and that she will develop the necessary skills and expertise through continuous on the job training. For the training of ASHA, training modules based on thematic approach have been developed. For this purpose the States have constituted the District Training teams and Block Training teams for training of ASHA. The Block Training teams are providing training to ASHAs.

(d) Till date i.e. 20.2.06, A total number of 225375 ASHAs have been trained. The state-wise position may be seen at Annexure I (Col.6).

(e) At the national level the National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Munirka is Nodal Agency. At the state level, the state Institute of Health & Family Welfare (SIHFW) with the state training cell of the Dte. of F.W. oversees the processes of training, monitoring and also organizes concurrent evaluation of training programme. Credible NGOs are involved in the training of ASHAs by the Central/State Governments. An ASHA Mentoring Group comprising of leading NGOs in the country set up by GOI advises the Government on selection and Training of ASHAs in the country.

Statement-I**State-wise Status of ASHA as on 20th February 2007**

| State | No. of ASHA proposed for the Mission Period 2005-10 | No. of ASHAs selected during 2005-06 | No. of ASHAs selected during 2006-07 | Total No. of ASHA selected till date | No. of ASHA trained during 2006-07 till date |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| High Focus Non-NE | | | | | |
| 1 Bihar | 74313 | 36488 | 18663 | 55151 | 37495 |
| 2 Chhattisgarh | 29437 | 5030 | 24407 | 29437 | 29437 |
| 3 Jharkhand | 18000 | 2096 | 11261 | 13357 | 2096 |
| 4 Jammu & Kashmir | 9500 | 2773 | 6565 | 9338 | 5093 |
| 5 Madhya Pradesh | 44379 | 16090 | 11266 | 27356 | 12816 |
| 6 Orissa | 47592 | 12730 | 16996 | 29726 | 12729 |
| 7 Rajasthan | 42592 | 20785 | 11215 | 32000 | 23443 |
| 8 Uttar Pradesh | 123450 | 19887 | 91523 | 111410 | 8058 |
| 9 Uttaranchal | 9517 | 4104 | 3112 | 7216 | 6419 |
| 10 Himachal Pradesh | 7750 | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL NON-NE | 406530 | 119983 | 195008 | 314991 | 210586 |
| High Focus NE | | | | | |
| 1 Assam | 26427 | 9058 | 16342 | 25400 | 14030 |
| 2 Arunachal Pradesh | 3862 | — | 2027 | 2027 | — |
| 3 Manipur | 3000 | — | 2840 | 2840 | — |
| 4 Meghalaya | 6180 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 Mizoram | 943 | — | 674 | 674 | — |
| 6 Nagaland | 2000 | — | 1309 | 1309 | 759 |
| 7 Tripura | 3902 | — | 1229 | 1229 | — |
| 8 Sikkim | 665 | — | 450 | 450 | — |
| TOTAL NE | 46979 | 9058 | 24871 | 33929 | 14789 |
| Non High Focus-Tribal Area | | | | | |
| 1 Gujarat | 549 | — | — | — | — |
| 2 Karnataka | 2934 | — | — | — | — |
| 3 Maharashtra | 9000 | — | — | — | — |
| 4 D & N Haveli | 250 | — | — | — | — |
| 5 Daman & Diu | 250 | — | — | — | — |
| 6 Lakshadweep | 60 | — | — | — | — |
| 7 Andhra Pradesh | 8500 | — | — | — | — |
| 8 Andaman & Nicobar | 100 | — | — | — | — |
| TOTAL - TRIBAL AREA | 21643 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

LINK WORKERS in NON-HIGH FOCUS STATES

| | Proposed for the mission period | No. of Link Workers selected during 06-07 | Total No. Selected till date | No. Trained till Date |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Andhra Pradesh | 55400 | 51281 | 51281 | 47329 |
| 2 Haryana | 9000 | 6966 | 6966 | 4078 |
| 3 West Bengal | 13613 | 2111 | 2111 | |
| 4 Karnataka | 8266 | — | | |
| 5 Chhattisgarh (Mittanins) | 30655 | 30655 | 30655 | 29157 |
| TOTAL: | 113934 | 0 | 91013 | 80564 |

Statement-II*Details of training of ASHA***Training**

Capacity building of ASHA is critical in enhancing the effectiveness. It has been envisaged that the training will help to equip her with necessary knowledge and skills resulting in achievement of the Schemes objectives. Capacity building of ASHAs has been seen as a continuous process.

Training Strategy

- * **Induction Training:** After selection, ASHA will have to undergo series of training episodes to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence for performing her spelled out roles. Considering range of functions and tasks to be performed, induction training may be completed in 23 days spread over a period of 12 months. The first round may be of seven days, to be followed by another four rounds of training, each lasting for four days to complete induction training.
- * **Training Materials:** Would be prepared according to the roles and responsibilities that the ASHA would need to perform. Her envisaged functions and task will be expanded into a listing of competencies and the training material would be prepared accordingly. The training materials produced at the national level would be in the form of a general prototype which states may

modify and adapt as per local needs. The training materials will include facilitators guide, training aids and resource material for ASHAs.

- * **Periodic Trainings:** After the induction training, periodic re-training will be held for about two days, once in every alternate month at appropriate level for all ASHAs. During this training, interactive sessions will be held to help refresh and upgrade their knowledge and skills, trouble shoot problems they are facing, monitor their work and also for keeping up motivation and interest. The opportunity will also be used for replenishments of supplies and payment of performance linked incentives. ASHA will be compensated for attending these meetings.
- * **On-the-job Training:** ASHAs needs to have on the job support after training both during the initial training phase and during the later periodic training phase it is needed to provide on the job training to ASHAs in the field, so that they can get individual attention and support that is essential to begin and continue her work. ANMs while conducting outreach sessions in the villages will contact ASHA of the village and use the opportunity for continuing education. NGOs can also be invited to take up the selection; training and post training follow up. Similarly block facilitators identified earlier for selection of ASHAs can also be engaged for regular field support.
- * **Training of Trainers:** A cascade model of training is proposed. At most peripheral level, Block trainers (who are the members of identified block training teams) would have to spend at least the same number of days in acquiring the knowledge and skills as ASHAs. These ToTs will also have to be similarly phased. These trainers should be largely women and chosen by block nodal officer. The block teams would be trained by a district trainer's team. (Or Master trainers) who are in turn trained by the State training team. The duration to ToTs for District Training Teams (DTT) and State Training Teams (STT) will be finalised by the States depending on the profile of the members to be selected as DTT and STT.
- * **Constitutions of Training Teams:** It follows that each State, District and Block would have a training team compromising of

three-four members. Existing NGOs especially those working on community health issues at the district/block level may also be entrusted with the responsibility for identifying trainers and conducting of ToTs. The trainers would be paid compensation for the days they spend on acquiring or imparting training—both camp based training and on the job training. The similar guidelines applies to the district level also where trainers would be drawn in from programme Managers and NGOs. The State Institutes of Health and FW alongwith reputed and experienced NGOs would form training teams at the State Level. State level training structures to be used for trainings under various National Health and FW programmes Trainings may be adhered wherever feasible.

- * **Continuing Education and Skill Upgradation:** A resource agency in the district of State (Preferably an NGO) will be identified by the State. The resource agency in collaboration with open schools and other appropriate community health distance education schemes will develop relevant illustrated material to be mailed to ASHAs periodically for those who would opt for an eventual certification.
- * **Venue of Training:** The principle of choice of venue shall be that the venue should be close to their habitation that the training group should not be more than 25 to 30. In most situations this could be the PHC or alternatively Panchayat Bhavan or other facilities that are available.
- * **National Level:** At the National Level the National Institute of Health and FW (NIHFW) would in coordination with the National Rural Health Mission and its technical support teams and the Training Division of the Ministry will coordinate and organise periodic evaluation of the training programmes. The findings of these concurrent evaluations should be shared with State Governments.
- * **State Level:** At the State Level, the State Institute of Health and FW (SIHFW) in coordination with the State Training Cell of Directorate of Family Welfare will oversee the process of training, monitor and organise concurrent evaluation of training programme.